SUMMER - Australia - December to February

The hot and humid summer months are now on hand, we all like to let down a little and sit in the shade. Unfortunately Hibiscus plants don't feel that way. This is their get up and go period when they are preparing to bloom prolifically if a little care and attention from you is forth-coming. There doesn't seem to be any half way mark, the weather is either hot and dry or we get heaps of rain and must be guided accordingly. Your growth should be well established and your concern turns to larger and better blooms. It is now advisable to apply a little more fertilizer, preferably nitro phoska or a N.P.K. of 4-6-8. Keep in mind the fact that if the month is reasonably dry a monthly feeding is adequate and it helps to cup the ground around the plant the width of the branches to retain the water and fertilizer to feed the roots instead of the weeds and grass with the wash a few feet away. Also in the summer months a substantial mulch of compost, leafmould, straw or better still mushroom compost is most beneficial to bounce off the sun's heat from the roots in sandy soil and aids in retaining moisture, and preventing bud and leaf drop. Of course the mulch should be kept away from the trunk of the plant to keep away from white scale or damp off at the ground level. Now of course if the month is continuously wet your action should be guided accordingly. A few days of repeated downfall of

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MONROE'S HIBISCUS NURSERY

783 Central Avenue — Cypress 3-7662
Eagle Lake, Florida — Stop by and visit

HIBISCUS

NOTHING BUT HIBISCUS

PLANTS — GRAFTWOOD — WILL SHIP

several inches of rain, while the plants enjoy the same, realize that your fertilizer will be rapidly leached out and it may be necessary to go back in two weeks to replenish the loss of plant food. Seems like a heap of work but the resultant pay in large glossy foliage and prime blooms w ll be your reward. Keep your eye on those bugs all the time, spray regularly and never let them get out of hand. Look over your plant and check for the following insect pests.

APHIDS - Small softbodied slow moving insects found on the under side of new tender leaves and young flower buds. They will curl the leaves by sucking the juice which will ruin the growing tip and mar the flower bud. Aphids secrete honeydew, a sticky substance which attracts ants and which in turn is attacked by a black fungus known as sooty mould. Cure - Wellspray, Malathion, Bug-geta.

WEEVIL - Small black beetles usually about 1/8" long which feed on the flower buds and young growing tips They eat the inside out of the flower before it opens. They are very persistant and regular spraying is essential. Cure - Wellspray, Bug-geta, Malathion.

THRIP - Tiny, narrow, fast moving insects that may cause the bud to drop. They make white or silvery patches on the leaves. Cure - Deildrin, Ekatin.

WORMS, CATERPILLARS, GRASSHOPPERS - feed on the foliage and flower buds, Cure - Wellspray, Bug-geta Nicotine suophate, Malathion.

RED SPIDER MITES - Found on the undersides of the leaves. Close examination reveals a fine webbing and the tiny red spider can be seen, causes paling and browning of foliage. Cure - Ekatin, Malathion.

AUTUMN - Australia - March to May

At this time of the year you can expect the best blooms of all, therefore regular applications of complete fertilizer such as nitro-phoska, gro plus, Sussex 14 or a 2-12-12 increases the size of the bloom